

by good luck than good shooting that the little pinch of shot from my cane-gun knocked him over, though the weapon rarely fails me in day-time. I immediately ran up to my study with my prize, where I discovered that I had killed a fine specimen of Nuttall's Poor-will. As the skeleton of this bird had long been among my desiderata, the skin and its beautiful plumage was soon stripped off, whereupon I was much surprised to find in its mouth some four or five quite sizable moths, and the upper portion of the œsophagus filled with a wad of a dozen or fifteen more. Fully half of these were yet alive, and two or three managed to fly away when freed from the bodies of their more disabled companions. This, then, is what the bird was up to; instead of flying about as a Nighthawk does, taking his insect prey in a conspicuous manner upon the wing, he captures it in the way I have described above.

To-night the moon is twenty-four hours older, and the evening proportionately brighter, but a careful search for over half an hour failed to discover a single specimen of the bird on the same ground. I am not aware that any of the other Caprimulgidæ have similar habits.—DR. R. W. SHUFELDT, *Fort Wingate, New Mexico.*

Colaptes auratus in California.—During the early part of January, 1885, I took at this place a female of a species I at first thought to be *C. hybridus* Baird, but which I soon became satisfied was *C. auratus*; and upon consulting Mr. Robert Ridgway, who examined the bird, I found my conclusion correct. The bird had been observed for nearly a fortnight frequenting a house near by, and at last it paid with its life for its persistency. Soon after I saw two others of this species, but as I had no gun with me at the time they escaped, much to my regret. I am of the opinion that this bird frequents California more than is supposed, and is overlooked through being mistaken for *C. mexicanus*, which it much resembles, and which is so common as not to be collected in great numbers; and hence the few scattered specimens of *C. auratus* which may visit us are thus overlooked. We have at this place, and in fact all through the southern part of the State, at regular intervals, and lasting generally three days, heavy wind storms, amounting at times almost to tornados. The bird was first seen just after one of these wind storms, and it may be that this had something to do with the bird's having wandered so far from its accustomed haunts, but this seems very improbable. This, the only specimen that I have ever heard of as taken on the Pacific coast south of Sitka, is now the property of the National Museum, to which it was contributed by me.—FORREST BALL, *San Bernardino, Cal.*

A. Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula caparoch*) at Chatham, Mass.—I am informed by Mr. Augustus W. Baker, of Chatham, Mass., that a Hawk Owl was shot at Chatham during the winter of 1883-'84. The specimen was not preserved, nor can the exact date be given, but Mr. Baker's intelligent and very accurate description of the bird, which he carefully examined, renders the record otherwise satisfactory and not in the least open to doubt.—J. A. ALLEN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*